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MCAE NEWS



The Voice of Adult Education in Massachusetts

October 16, 2009

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We Want
Your Photos
and Stories!

The new MCAE website is [featuring programs](#) and [photos](#) from programs around the state. Please [submit](#) yours.

Adult Education and Family Literacy Week October 18 to 24

Last week the US House of Representative's passed a bill making the week of Oct 18, 2009 Adult Education and Family Literacy Week! This is important because for the first time in United States history Adult and Family Literacy will be recognized as an important need in communities around the country. Adult and Family Literacy week will raise awareness of how many individuals receive and need these services all over the United States.

In this newsletter you will find MCAE's press release sent to media outlets statewide, a student writing assignment and information and resources from the National Coalition for Literacy.

See you at NETWORK next week.

Congress Declares National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

Boston, MA - Congress has declared October 18-24 2009 National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Key sponsor Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) was joined by Massachusetts Congressmen Michael Capuano, Edward Markey and James McGovern and 23 other co-signers who supported the resolution as a result of literacy advocacy and outreach encouraged by the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE).

Adult basic education (ABE) help adult students improve their basic literacy and math skills, improve their oral and written English, study for the General Education Development (GED) test to attain a high school credential, and prepare for community college or vocational training.

According to the State Assessment of Adult Literacy for Massachusetts released in December 2005 by the National Center for Education Statistics, a significant number of adults in the state do not have sufficient literacy skills: 32% of adults were at Below Basic and Basic on the prose literacy scale which is the ability to read and comprehend a continuous text such as newspaper articles, editorials or brochures. In Massachusetts, approximately 22,400 adults are currently enrolled in ABE programs funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), and 21,300 adults are currently on

waiting lists for ABE programs funded by the Department because there aren't adequate resources to fund needed programs in the state.

The media can celebrate Adult Education and Family Literacy Week by publishing stories and literacy facts to raise public awareness as to the extent of the need and power of the solutions. Contact MCAE to arrange an interview or visit to an adult education or family literacy program in Massachusetts.

MCAE is the statewide organization for practitioners, adult students, individuals and organizations supporting equal educational opportunities for all adults. MCAE is dedicated to the advancement of adult education through high quality services and professionalism in the field from basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) through preparation for a high school credential such as the General Educational Development (GED) test to programs such as family literacy, workforce development, and workplace education to transitions to post-secondary education. For more information about adult basic education in Massachusetts visit www.mcae.net.

Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Student Writing Assignment

Massachusetts Congressmen Michael Capuano, Edward Markey, and James McGovern co-sponsored House Resolution 707 declaring October 18 - 24, 2009 as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Students from their districts can send "Thank You" letters as a way to show their appreciation for their support of adult education. All students can send "Thank You" letters to their Congressmen for voting in favor of House Resolution 707.

MCAE hopes this sample text will make it easier for you and your students to write a hand written letter but please remember your heart-felt and personal comments mean more to a representative than a form letter. Thank you all for your time and effort!

Sample letter for Students/Staff Represented by Congressmen Capuano, Markey and McGovern

October 15, 2009

Dear Congressman _____:

Thank you for co-sponsoring House Resolution 707 designating Adult Education and Family Literacy Week for the week of October 18, 2009. My Adult Education /Family Literacy program at _____ is important to me because _____.

I appreciate the support you have given to adult education in Congress.

I hope you can come by to see our program in the future. Thanks again!

*Sincerely,
Student/Staff*

Sample letter to MA Congressiona Delegation for
Voting in Favor of House Resolution 707

October 15, 2009

Dear Congressman _____:

Thank you for voting in favor of House Resolution 707 designating
Adult Education and Family Literacy Week for the week of October 18,
2009. My Adult Education /Family Literacy program at _____
is important to me because_____.

I appreciate the support you have given to adult education in
Congress.

I hope you can come by to see our program in the future. Thanks
again!

Sincerely,
Student/Staff

Thanks to Kristen McKenna from BCC - Attleboro for drafting the
sample letters.

Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Online Resources

The National Coalition for Literacy (NCL) has created a resource
collection in the NCL Advocacy Clearinghouse and Toolkit
www.ncladvocacy.org/aeft.html to support your efforts to raise
awareness and celebrate the week. Resources include the latest fact
sheets, sample press releases, and commemoration ideas for raising
awareness for program directors, instructors, and partners.

NCL is hosting an online guest discussion, from October 19-23, using
the blog to discuss Cultivating Media Relations. There, NCL Members
will support you in responding to questions from the media, and will
offer advice based on their public relations expertise. Participation is
free and very easy! Join NCL for this special guest discussion by
visiting: <http://blog.ncladvocacy.org/>

NETWORK 2009 - October 21 and 22, 2009

NETWORK is the largest annual
ABE Conference in New England.
This year's roster of over 70
workshop includes offering in
teaching ESOL, Reading, Writing,
Mathematics, Workplace
Education, Workforce
Development, Technology,
Advocacy, Curriculum Frameworks,
Student Leadership, Financial
Literacy, Learning Disabilities,
Assessment, Distance Learning,
Corrections, Management, and
Media Strategies for ABE



Programs.

Registration is underway. To [download a program](#) or [register](#) for NETWORK, visit the [NETWORK 2009 page](#) on MCAE's new website.

Please visit our new [website](#) and let us know what you think! Since it is new - it is a "work in progress". Your thoughts, comments, pictures and videos of your program, are more than welcome.

Have a great year - and see you at NETWORK 2009!

Kenneth Tamarkin, Executive Director
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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